

Islands southward to northern California, and over the east-central ocean about midway between the Aleutian and the Hawaiian Islands. The migratory LOWs move mostly northeastward from the East China Sea and Hokkaido to the western Aleutians and then east-northeastward to the Gulf of Alaska. Other primary tracks approach the Gulf of Alaska and Vancouver Island from the southwest.

TROPICAL STORMS are infrequent in January. On the average, two can be expected every 5 yr over the western North Pacific. Most of these storms develop between 6° and 10°N and west of 150°E and move toward the southern half of the Philippines. Three out of every five January tropical storms achieve typhoon strength.

SEA HEIGHTS greater than 12 ft occur more than 10 percent of the time in an area extending northward from 30° to 35°N to a line drawn from Kodiak Island to the central Aleutians and then to the southeastern waters of the Sea of Okhotsk, and westward from a line 700 mi off the coast of southeastern Alaska and 500 mi off the Oregon coast to 150°E.

VISIBILITY less than 2 mi occurs in 10 percent or more of the observations over an area of the eastern North Pacific between 40° and 50°N and 141° and 162°W, and northwest of a line drawn from Hokkaido to the western Aleutians and then northeastward along the Aleutian chain to the Alaska Peninsula and Cape Avinof. A maximum frequency of over 30 percent encloses a small area over the Okhotsk Basin southwest of Kamchatka.

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NOAA National Weather Service Port Meteorological Offices have personnel who visit ships in port to check and calibrate barometers and other meteorological instruments. In addition, port meteorologists assist masters and mates with problems regarding weather observations, preparation of weather maps, and forecasts. Meteorological manuals, forms, and some instruments are also provided.

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